



MITCHELL CONNECTIONS

Celebrating the people, places, & stories of Mitchell, Nebraska

*Small town.
Strong roots.
Bright future.*

Issue No. 1 | September 2026

THE BEGINNINGS OF MITCHELL

How a railroad stop became a community

In 1902, the *Mitchell Index* published an article about what Mitchell had been like just two years earlier, in 1900.

At that time, Mitchell was described as "not wild and wooly, but new and incomplete." Homes had begun to appear, businesses were opening, and the railroad was bringing people, supplies, and opportunity into the valley.

The author called Mitchell a town in its "chrysalis state"—still forming, still unfinished, but filled with promise.

Mitchell may have been small, but its residents believed in what it could become. They saw more than open prairie and a handful of buildings. They saw homes, businesses, churches, schools, and a future worth building.

Every new building and business became part of that vision.

More than a century later, we are living in the community they imagined. The buildings downtown, the businesses that serve us, the schools that educate our children, and the events that bring us together all trace their roots to those early years.



FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the very first issue of Mitchell Connections!

This is a local, independent newsletter created for and by people who care about Mitchell. You'll find stories about our neighbors, local businesses, rich history, and the everyday happenings that make our community unique.

Thank you for reading, supporting, and sharing.

Let's stay connected!

We'd love to hear from you! Help celebrate your neighbors, businesses, events, and history by sharing your stories and ideas with Mitchell Invitation Co.

donna@mitchellinvitation.com

Those early residents were not simply living in Mitchell. Together, they were building the town that future generations would call home.



SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO TAKE A CHANCE



A look at Mitchell — then and now — and the potential that remains in our downtown.

THEN



NOW



1315 Center Ave. Same building. New vision. Still downtown Mitchell.

I smile when I think about my first impression of Mitchell. Downtown had clearly seen better days. Buildings sat vacant, some were used only for storage, and others desperately needed attention.

Yet Mitchell itself felt special. People waved, neighbors greeted one another, and men still held doors open for women.

That contrast stayed with me: How could a town feel so alive in its people, yet so quiet in its downtown?

An article in the *Mitchell Index* described the young town as “not wild and wooly, but new and incomplete.” The writer called Mitchell a town “in the chrysalis state”—still forming, still unfinished, but full of promise.

More than a century later, I saw that same promise.

The more I studied downtown, the more I noticed the character of its buildings. I imagined shops filled with customers, people visiting on the sidewalks, and special events bringing neighbors and visitors together.

Against my husband’s better judgment, I took a chance and purchased a small downtown building. With a shoestring budget, hard work, and many generous favors, we restored enough of it to open our doors.

The building was once again doing what it had been built to do—holding downtown businesses.

I moved my stationery and gift store into the building, and my daughter, Jennifer, relocated her law office from Scottsbluff.

Items from my daughter-in-law Samantha’s cottage business, Dorothy’s Bakery, now have a place there too.

No one knows what the future will bring. Businesses will always come and go. But with care, hard work, and a little faith, this building may still be standing and serving Mitchell long after we are gone.

One restored building cannot bring an entire downtown back to life. But it can be a beginning. My hope is that other buildings will find new purpose too, giving future generations a downtown where they can shop, work, gather, and know their neighbors.

Perhaps Mitchell is still in the chrysalis state—still forming, still unfinished, but full of promise.

Sometimes, you just have to take a chance.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly nine out of every ten incorporated communities have fewer than 3,000 residents. That means much of Nebraska’s character is shaped not by its largest cities, but by small communities like Mitchell—places where local businesses, schools, churches, and neighbors keep the town connected.

In a small town, even one restored building, new business, or community event can make a noticeable difference. The choices local people make today may become part of the town’s story for generations.



YOUR MITCHELL

People to meet. Places to go. Things to do.

MEET THE BAKER: DOROTHY'S BAKERY

A family name. A new Mitchell tradition.



Samantha is the baker behind Dorothy's Bakery. She named the cottage bakery after her grandmother, Dorothy.

On Sample Saturdays, visitors can meet Samantha, sample a featured treat and purchase a limited number of extras while supplies last.

WHAT'S BAKING?

- Cinnamon rolls
- Chocolate chunk brownies
- Cake Pops
- Apple cinnamon streusel bread
- Chocolate chunk cookies
- Pumpkin chocolate chip bread
- Carrot cake cookies

*"Sweet treats. A family name.
Made close to home."*



Follow Dorothy's Bakery on Facebook.
for menus and ordering information

COMING UP IN MITCHELL

SEPTEMBER 2026

SEPT.
12

3 - 6 PM

SAMPLE SATURDAY
Make an afternoon of it! Sample something sweet from Dorothy's Bakery at Mitchell Invitation Co., then enjoy the Husker football tailgate at Redz.

Mitchell Invitation Co. 1315 Center Ave



SEPT.
15

5:30 PM

BUSINESS RESOURCE PRESENTATION NIGHT

"Market without Marketing" This event is open to everyone. Sponsored by Mitchell Chamber of Commerce

Nile Theatre Downtown Mitchell



SEPT.

19 & 26

3 - 5 PM

SAMPLE SATURDAY

Sample something sweet from Dorothy's Bakery at Mitchell Invitation Co.

Mitchell Invitation Co. 1315 Center Ave



SEPT.
26

9AM-2 PM

PEACEFUL PRAIRIE FALL KICKOFF

Welcome fall with a day at Peaceful Prairie Nursery. Stop by for seasonal inspiration and special activities planned throughout the day.

140090 Brookway Dr., Mitchell



OCTOBER 2026

Oct.

21

6 PM

MEET & GREET

Meet the Candidates for the upcoming City Council and mayoral elections. Sponsored by Mitchell Chamber of Commerce

Cornerstone Coffee Downtown Mitchell



OCT.

31

2 - 4 PM

TRUNK OR TREAT

Bring the family downtown for a festive evening of costumes, treats, and community fun. Redz will also host a Husker football tailgate.

Downtown Mitchell



Event details may change. Check with the host before heading out.

MITCHELL, TOGETHER

Local talent. Useful information. Stories worth preserving.



YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED WHAT'S MADE IN MITCHELL

From a kitchen table to a garage, a basement, or a small workshop at home, some of the most interesting things in and around Mitchell are being made by our neighbors.

People here are baking, preserving food, sewing, woodworking, printing shirts, making gifts, and creating all kinds of products on a small scale.

For some, it's a business and a source of income. For others, it's a way to stay creative, reduce stress, or earn a little extra money.

These home-based makers give our community its character. Their products are unique, personal, and often hard to find anywhere else.

The next time you need a loaf of bread, a handmade gift, or a locally printed shirt, consider shopping close to home. There is a surprising amount being made right here in Mitchell.

Support can begin even closer to home.

Your City. Your Voice. Your Vote.

Want to know what is happening with streets, the golf course, city departments, or upcoming projects? Start with the City Council page. Public information is there for a reason — so residents can stay informed and take part in the life of their town.

Voting matters, too. In communities like Mitchell, a small number of votes can shape who makes decisions for the whole community. The more residents learn about local candidates, meetings, budgets, and issues, the better prepared we are to choose leaders who reflect the values and needs of Mitchell.

Being informed does not mean knowing everything. It starts with paying attention, asking questions, reading what is available, and showing up when it matters.

Because Mitchell works best when Mitchell residents are involved.



WHERE TO LOOK

Go to:

mitchellcity.net

Use the drop-down menu:

City Government → City Council

Look for:



Agenda



Minutes



Council Packet



Meeting information

DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the most valuable pieces of hometown history were never filed at City Hall. They remain tucked inside family photo albums, newspaper clippings, business receipts, church programs, signs, and the memories of longtime residents.

Our history lives in people

MITCHELL QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What Mitchell business from years past do you remember most — and what made it special?

Share your memory through the Mitchell Invitation Co.'s Facebook page or stop by 1315 Center Ave.

Stories keep Mitchell connected.

COMING IN OCTOBER

HOW 257
BLUE-AND-WHITE
METAL SIGNS
FOREVER CHANGED
MITCHELL

Same town. A new direction.



WHERE TO FIND MITCHELL CONNECTIONS

Pick up a copy at Mitchell Invitation Co., 1315 Center Avenue, next to Redz — or read and share it on Facebook

Have a story, photograph, event, or neighbor we should feature? Let us know.
donna@mitchellinvitation.com

